

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, DALLAS (44-1639-43)
FROM : ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR A. H. BELMONT
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

DATE: 11/24/63

See Instructions

Deputy Attorney General KATLENDACH advised that Section 241, Title 18, the Lynching Statute, gave the Federal Government technical jurisdiction on the shooting of OSWALD, based on the threatening calls that he would be shot and the fact that the police authorities were notified of this and apparently did not take sufficient precautions. We do not want to get to the point that we demand that RUBY be turned over to us because the police have primary jurisdiction on an assault for murder charge. However, we do want to take strong steps to insure that the matter is properly handled. And, again it is desirable that SAC SHANKLIN caution the Chief of Police about appearances on radio and television as this is providing a basis for change of venue and providing material for the defense attorney. In view of our extreme interest and the President's interest, it is imperative that our Agents interview RUBY and develop full facts on this shooting. Do not rely on the police to do this, but conduct full and immediate investigation to determine if others are involved, RUBY's background, his motive for doing this, whether he was the individual who called last night, his connections with any organizations, either left wing or right wing, and all facts regarding the matter so that we will be in a position to testify to what we come up with during the investigation.

The President has asked that we do everything possible to take hold of this situation as it is presenting the country in a very poor light as a country where law enforcement cannot maintain proper control. Again, I would like to stress that we should tactfully, but specifically, suggest to the Chief that he and his officers avoid these radio and television appearances that will be harmful to the prosecution.

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AHR: pm
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Automatic for Bureau

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV-24-1963	
FBI - DALLAS	

13